

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~[[The]] A catalytic composition according to Claim 15, wherein said composition further~~ for the partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures which comprises:

a perovskite crystallographic structure;

a nickel metal; and

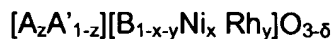
~~iii)~~ a rhodium metal.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A catalytic composition for the partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures which comprises:

i) a perovskite crystallographic structure; and

ii) a rhodium metal.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The composition according to Claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (I):



wherein said A and said A' each comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of the lathanide family, the actinide family, and group ~~[[IIa]]~~ IIa,

wherein said B is at least one component selected from the transition metal groups of columns Ib, IIb, IIIb, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIIIb,

wherein  $0 < x \leq 0.7$ ,

wherein  $0 < y \leq 0.5$ ,

wherein  ~~$0 \leq x+y \leq 0.8$~~   $0 < x+y \leq 0.8$ ,

wherein  $0 \leq z \leq 1$ , and

wherein said  $\delta$  is adjusted so as to obtain the electric neutrality of said perovskite compound.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein said A and said A' each comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

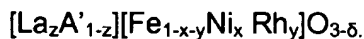
- i) La;
- ii) Ce;
- iii) Ca; and
- iv) Sr.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 19, wherein said A is La.

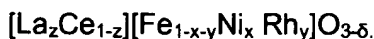
Claim 21 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein said B is at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- i) Mn;
- ii) Fe;
- iii) Co; and
- iv) Al.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (Ia):



Claim 23 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (Ib):



Claim 24 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ .

Claim 25 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein  $0 < y \leq 0.25$ .

Claim 26 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein  $z < 1$ .

Claim 27 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 22, wherein said formula (Ia) comprises about  $\text{La Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.25} \text{Rh}_{0.05} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 28 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 23, wherein said formula (Ib) comprises about  $\text{La}_{0.8} \text{Ce}_{0.2} \text{Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.25} \text{Rh}_{0.05} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 29 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 28, wherein said formula (Ib) comprises about  $\text{La}_{0.8} \text{Ce}_{0.2} \text{Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.3} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 30 (currently amended): The composition according to Claim [[15]] 16, wherein said partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures occurs when an operating temperature of the catalyst is in the range of about 500 to about 1300 °C.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 30, wherein said operating temperature of the catalyst is in the range of about 600 to about 1100 °C.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The composition according to Claim [[15]] 16, wherein said partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures occurs when an operating pressure of the catalyst is in the range of about  $10^5$  Pa to about  $3 \times 10^6$  Pa.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The composition according to Claim 32, wherein said operating pressure of the catalyst is in the range of about  $10^5$  Pa to about  $10^6$  Pa.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The composition according to Claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein said partial oxidation further comprises at least one oxidant gaseous feed selected from the group consisting of:

- i) oxygen;
- ii) oxygen and an inert gas mixture; and
- iii) steam and carbon dioxide.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The composition according to Claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein said light hydrocarbon mixture to be partially oxidized further comprises natural gas.

Claim 36 (cancelled)

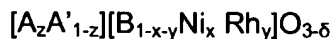
Claim 37 (currently amended): ~~[[The]] A method according to Claim 36, wherein said method further for making a catalytic composition for the partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures which comprises the steps of:~~

- i) introducing a perovskite crystallographic structure;
- ii) adding a nickel metal; and
- iii) adding a rhodium metal.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A method for making a catalytic composition for the partial oxidation of light hydrocarbon mixtures which comprises the steps of:

- i) introducing a perovskite crystallographic structure; and
- ii) adding a rhodium metal.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 37, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (I):



wherein said A and said A' each comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of the lathanide family, the actinide family, and group IIa,

wherein said B is at least one component selected from the transition metal groups Ib, IIb, IIIb, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIIIb,

wherein  $0 < x \leq 0.7$ ,

wherein  $0 < y \leq 0.5$ ,

wherein  ~~$0 \leq x+y \leq 0.8$~~   $0 < x+y \leq 0.8$ ,

wherein  $0 \leq z \leq 1$ , and

wherein said  $\delta$  is adjusted so as to obtain the electric neutrality of said perovskite compound.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein said A and said A' each comprise at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

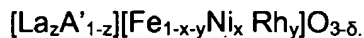
- i) La;
- ii) Ce;
- iii) Ca; and
- iv) Sr.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 40, wherein said A is La.

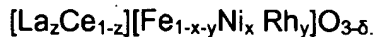
Claim 42 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein said B is at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- i) Mn;
- ii) Fe;
- iii) Co; and
- iv) Al.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (Ia):



Claim 44 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein said perovskite crystallographic structure further comprises formula (lb):



Claim 45 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein  $0 < x \leq 0.5$ .

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein  $0 < y \leq 0.25$ .

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 39, wherein  $z < 1$ .

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 43, further comprising about  $\text{La Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.25} \text{Rh}_{0.05} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 44, further comprising about  $\text{La}_{0.8} \text{Ce}_{0.2} \text{Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.25} \text{Rh}_{0.05} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 49, further comprising about  $\text{La}_{0.8} \text{Ce}_{0.2} \text{Fe}_{0.7} \text{Ni}_{0.3} \text{O}_{3-\delta}$ .

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[36]] 37, wherein the operating catalyst condition is in the range of about 500 to about 1300°C.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 51, wherein said catalyst condition is in the range of about 600 to about 1100° C.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[36]] 37, wherein the operating catalyst condition is in the range of about  $10^5$  Pa to about  $3 \times 10^6$  Pa.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 53, wherein said catalyst condition is in the range of about  $10^5$  Pa to about  $10^6$  Pa.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 37, wherein the partial oxidation requires adding an oxidant gaseous feed that comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of:

- i) oxygen;
- ii) oxygen and an inert gas mixture; and
- iii) steam and carbon dioxide.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The method according to Claim ~~[[36]]~~ 37, wherein said light hydrocarbon mixture comprises natural gas subjected to at least one process selected from the group consisting of:

- i) partial oxidation;
- ii) reforming (steam or dry);
- iii) selective oxidation;
- iv) hydrogenation reaction; and
- v) dehydrogenated oxidative reaction.